

Missouri State Archives

Finding Aid [998.395]

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Execution Document Collection

Abstract: Documents and photographs related to executions of criminals in the State of Missouri.

Extent: 4 Items

Physical Description: Photograph; Paper

Location: Missouri State Archives; Stacks

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Alternative Formats: TIF

Access Restrictions: None

Publication Restrictions: None

Preferred Citation: [item description], [date]; *Execution Document Collection*, Record Group 998.395; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

Acquisition Information: Gift with deed; Accession #2011-0272

Processing Information: Processing completed by EW on 10/17/2017. Updated by EW on 03/25/2021.

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Executions in Missouri have been taking place from statehood through the present day. Although all executions today are performed at the state level, historically they could be held in any of Missouri's 117 counties. This is a small collection of documents related to executions of criminals.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Related Collections

RG213 Missouri State Penitentiary: Case Files of Death Row Inmates, 1938-1965

RG213 Missouri State Penitentiary: Numerical Register of Inmates Received (see specifically Vol. T p. 1 no. 11292 Gus MEEKS (victim of George and William Taylor) whose sentence in the MSP ended about a month before his murder).

Additional External Resources

Multiple collections at the Missouri State Museum in St. Louis and The State Historical Society of Missouri in Columbia contain execution documents.

DOCUMENTS RELATED TO EXECUTIONS, 1895-1977

Arrangement: Chronological

Scope and Content

George and William Taylor were convicted of killing Gus Meeks, Meeks's wife, and two children. The murder occurred on May 10, 1894 in Sullivan County, MO. A third Meeks child, Nellie, survived and told the story of the murders to the court. George Taylor escaped and was never caught. William was executed by hanging on April 30, 1896.

Noah McGinnis was found guilty of murdering Frederick M. Borcharding on April 16, 1899 in Butler County, MO. McGinnis was executed by hanging on December 20, 1900. (Some newspapers list the date as December 31.)

The two invitations have been digitized as 400dpi TIFs on Manuscript DVD #5 in the Reference Room.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	165	90	Invitation to T.B. Hale of Lancaster, MO from George E. Stanley, Carroll County Sheriff to the execution of William P. Taylor for the murder of Gus Meeks, execution to be held on 04/30/1896.	04/30/1896
	165	91	Invitation to the execution of Noah McGinnis from E.C. Mudd, Sheriff of Bates County, execution to be held on 12/20/1900.	12/20/1900
	166	6	Typed history of the murder of Gus Meeks and his family by the Taylor brothers George and William. Includes excerpts from the trial transcript and a Sullivan County history book.	1895-1977

PHOTOGRAPH, c1890-1894

Arrangement: N/a

Scope and Content

This is a cabinet card photograph (actually two photographs on one card) of William P. Taylor and George E. Taylor, the convicted murderers of Gus Meeks and family. The cabinet card is credited to Stout of Milan, Sullivan County, MO.

The photograph has been digitized as a 400dpi TIF on Manuscript DVD #5 in the Reference Room.

Container List

Location	Box	Folder	Contents	Date
	165	92	Cabinet card of William and George Taylor, convicted murderers	c1890-1894